



# Missing Children Project

2009 Annual Report



**C.B.I.**  
**Missing**  
**Children's**  
**Unit**





# Introduction

Each year, thousands of children are reported missing in the United States. Although many return safely, those who are not continue to be exposed to harmful and dangerous situations. In response to the growing national concern for missing and exploited children, the Federal Children's Assistance Act was passed in 1982. It directed the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to become actively involved in missing children cases. Federal efforts were further strengthened by the creation of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) in 1984.

During this time, child abduction cases were becoming more highly publicized in Colorado and public concern was mounting. In 1985, the legislature created the Colorado Missing Children Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse serves as a central repository for information on missing children in order to better define the problem. It collects, compiles, exchanges, and disseminates information to help find missing children. To that end, the Clearinghouse is responsible for obtaining dental records of children who have been missing thirty or more days, comparing new student records with reports of missing children, and reviewing each missing child report submitted by every law enforcement agency in Colorado.

The NCMEC and the United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention instituted a program establishing state level clearinghouses for missing children. Seven states, including Colorado were selected to participate in the original pilot program. Because of its great success. There are now forty nine States with legislation authorizing missing children clearinghouses.



## Definitions

**CCIC** - Colorado Crime Information Center

**Kidnapped** - A person who is missing under circumstances indicating that the disappearance is not voluntary and who has been abducted by a stranger or non-family member.

**Lost** - A person who is presumed to have wandered away and has become lost and unable to return to a known location.

**Missing Child** - A child whose whereabouts are unknown, whose domicile at the time he was first reported missing was Colorado, and whose age at the time he was reported missing was seventeen years or younger.

**NCIC** - National Crime Information Center

**NCMEC** - The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

**Non-Custodial Abduction** - The taking of a child by the non-custodial parent or family member, with the intent to deprive the legal parent or guardian possession of that child.

**Runaway** - An unemancipated juvenile who has left the home environment without a parent's or legal guardian's permission. (Classified as non-suspicious for statistical purposes.)

**Suspicious** - A person who is missing with insufficient information to enable placing the record in any other probable category.



# Responsibilities of the Missing Children Unit

## **LISTS**

The Unit compiles and distributes lists of missing children from reports submitted by local law enforcement agencies. The reports are released to school districts and to any other entity or person the Unit determines may be instrumental in the identification and recovery of missing children.

## **STATISTICS**

Consistent with statute, the Unit maintains and distributes statistics on missing children which include:

- The number of missing children reported.
- The number of missing children cases resolved.
- The approximate physical location at which each child was last seen.
- The time of day each child was last seen.
- The age, gender, and physical description of each child reported missing.
- The activity the child was engaged in at the time last seen.
- The number of reported sightings of missing children.
- The Project documents the circumstances of recovery of missing children. These include a breakdown by age, race, and sex in cases resolved by: recovery by a law enforcement agency, recovery by an agency other than law enforcement, voluntarily returned, deceased, and circumstances unknown. These were summarized for the first time in the 1991 Annual Report to give a clearer picture of what is being done to resolve missing children cases in Colorado.

## **MONITORING**

The Unit reviews each missing child report to the Colorado Crime Information Center (CCIC) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for validity, completeness and accuracy and insures the originating agency makes any necessary corrections or additions.

When a child has been missing for thirty days, the Unit must attempt to obtain the child's dental records and attach them to the NCIC missing person report.

The Unit sends lists of children missing from Colorado to each Colorado school district for comparison with their enrollment records to identify missing children in their schools. If a district chooses, it may submit enrollment lists to the Unit for comparison with NCIC records to locate children missing from all states. When a match is verified, the Unit notifies the appropriate authorities to facilitate the return of the missing child.



# Activities as a State Clearinghouse

**Develop and present specialized training programs to criminal justice and youth service professionals.**

**Provide information regarding cases originating in Colorado to the NCMEC for inclusion in the national directory of missing and abducted children.**

**Provide and ensure follow-up on all missing children cases originating in other states but linked to Colorado in some way.**

**Provide information to out-of-state agencies concerning applicable Colorado State laws, relevant agency interrelationships, and recovery procedures.**

**Help reunite missing children with their lawful parent or guardian by establishing cooperative mechanisms with other state clearinghouses.**

**Act as a clearinghouse for photographs of missing children and cooperate with those who wish to publicize these photographs.**

**Assist in the preparation of missing children bulletins and their distribution to law enforcement agencies and school districts.**

**Counsel citizens and business groups on how they may respond to the plight of missing children.**

**Attempt to locate abductors by completing nationwide automated record and file searches and interacting with other organizations, agencies, or groups that may be instrumental in locating missing children.**

**Coordination of the AMBER Alert Program and the Missing Senior Citizen and Person with Developmental Disabilities Alert Program.**



**C.B.I.**  
**Missing**  
**Children's**  
**Unit**



## Contributing Support

### **NCMEC**

The [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's](#) (NCMEC) mission is to help prevent child abduction and sexual exploitation; help find missing children; and assist victims of child abduction and sexual exploitation, their families, and the professionals who serve them.



# Missing Persons Statistics Facts

An average of 32 children are reported missing every 24 hours in Colorado.

In comparison to all other days of the week, more children were reported missing on Friday.

In comparison to all other months, more children were reported missing in March.

Most children are reported to have been missing from inside their residence. This may include a family home, non-profit residential group home, foster home or residential treatment facility.

Most reported missing children are between 15 and 16 years old. There are more females reported missing than males.

Information in this report was provided to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by local law enforcement agencies using the CCIC automated information system. Each report filed with the local agency is entered into the CCIC computer as a separate case. The numbers reflect cases as opposed to actual missing children; i.e., some children may have been reported missing, recovered and subsequently missing once more. Also, because this data is based only on reports, the Project has no way of identifying those children who have not been reported to local authorities by parents, legal guardians, or subsequently by law enforcement to the CBI.



**C.B.I.**  
**Missing**  
**Children's**  
**Unit**



# Missing Children Reports Received and Reviewed 2009

In comparison to all other months, more children were reported missing in March.

Month	Number of Reports
January	1027
February	1035
March	1107
April	1085
May	1250
June	921
July	890
August	877
September	966
October	902
November	912
December	723
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11695</b>



**C.B.I.**  
**Missing**  
**Children's**  
**Unit**



# Missing Children Entries

Year	Missing Children Reports	Increase or Decrease From Previous Year
2009	11,695	-2,238
2008	13,933	-398
2007	14,331	+1
2006	14,330	-96
2005	14,426	-864
2004	15,290	+140
2003	15,150	-60
2002	15,210	-99
2001	15,309	-1,372
2000	16,681	-261
1999	16,942	-1,551
1998	18,493	-1,424
1997	19,917	-33
1996	19,950	+337
1995	19,613	-30
1994	19,643	+1,576
1993	18,067	+810
1992	17,257	+1,513
1991	15,744	-433
1990	16,177	



**C.B.I.**  
Missing  
Children's  
Unit



# Circumstances of Missing Children - 2009

Statistics indicate the believed circumstance at the time the child was reported missing.

**Non-Suspicious:** No unusual circumstances

**Lost:** A person who is presumed to have wandered away and has become lost and unable to return to a known location.

**Kidnapped:** A person who is missing under circumstances indicating that the disappearance is not voluntary and who has been abducted by a stranger or non-family member.

**Family:** The taking of a child by the non-custodial parent or family member, with the intent to deprive the legal parent or guardian possession of that child.

**Suspicious Circumstances:** A person who is missing with insufficient information to enable placing the record in any other probable category

Age	Runaway	Lost	Kidnapped	Non-custodial kidnap	Suspicious circumstance	UNK	Total
0	19	2	0	0	13	0	34
1	11	0	0	3	6	0	20
2	10	0	0	8	4	0	22
3	15	0	0	2	2	0	19
4	11	0	0	6	2	0	19
5	4	0	0	7	3	0	14
6	6	1	0	1	4	0	12
7	5	0	0	3	3	0	11
8	12	2	1	1	3	0	19
9	24	2	0	2	6	0	34
10	43		1	0	4	6	54
11	82	2	2	2	7	18	113
12	321	0	0	1	7	70	399
13	813	1	1	1	12	179	1007
14	1486	1	1	1	29	425	1943
15	2214	3	3	0	55	634	2909
16	2278	1	1	0	53	688	3021
17	1492	2	0	2	59	490	2045
TOTAL	8846	17	10	40	272	2510	11695



**C.B.I.  
Missing  
Children's  
Unit**



## Activity Report 2009

Most children were reported to have been last seen inside their residence. A residence can be a family home, non-profit residential group home, foster home or residential treatment facility.

Activity	Male	Female
At residence Inside	2744	3463
At residence outside	108	91
At friend/relative inside	34	66
At friend/relative outside	20	23
Public place inside	32	54
Public place outside	91	105
Inside school building	103	128
Outside school building	85	91
Place of employment	12	12
Social Activities	55	63
Traveling to/from on foot	91	95
Traveling to/from in vehicle	36	42
Traveling by bicycle	2	2
In custody of a public institution	149	118
Local area trip	2	3
Vacation	2	2
Unknown	1777	1977
Other	10	7
Totals	5353	6342



**C.B.I.**  
**Missing**  
**Children's**  
**Unit**



## Day Count of Missing Children 2009

Friday is the day that children are most often reported to have been last seen. Sunday is the day that children are least often reported missing.

Day	Male	Female	Total
Sunday	593	695	<b>1288</b>
Monday	784	868	<b>1652</b>
Tuesday	727	879	<b>1606</b>
Wednesday	737	898	<b>1635</b>
Thursday	760	909	<b>1669</b>
Friday	1114	1205	<b>2319</b>
Saturday	638	888	<b>1526</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5353</b>	<b>6342</b>	<b>11695</b>



**C.B.I.**  
Missing  
Children's  
Unit



## Age, Race and Sex of Missing Children 2009

Age	Sex	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Unk	Total
0	Male	11	2	0	0	0	13
0	Female	17	4	0	0	0	21
1	Male	9	0	0	0	0	9
1	Female	9	1	0	0	1	11
2	Male	8	3	0	0	0	11
2	Female	6	4	0	1	0	11
3	Male	10	0	0	0	0	10
3	Female	7	1	1	0	0	9
4	Male	8	0	0	0	1	9
4	Female	5	5	0	0	0	10
5	Male	5	0	0	0	0	5
5	Female	7	2	0	0	0	9
6	Male	8	0	0	0	1	9
6	Female	1	2	0	0	0	3
7	Male	6	0	0	0	0	6
7	Female	3	1	1	0	0	5
8	Male	8	2	1	0	0	11
8	Female	5	2	0	0	1	8
9	Male	19	7	0	0	2	28
9	Female	6	0	0	0	0	6
10	Male	30	11	0	0	0	41
10	Female	11	2	0	0	0	13

Age	Sex	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Unk	Total
11	Male	54	9	1	1	0	65
11	Female	39	7	2	0	0	48
12	Male	161	43	6	1	7	218
12	Female	142	32	4	1	2	181
13	Male	364	96	6	3	8	477
13	Female	437	79	4	4	6	530
14	Male	664	121	7	15	25	832
14	Female	983	97	7	5	19	1111
15	Male	1060	168	9	7	38	1282
15	Female	1349	222	15	10	31	1627
16	Male	1129	156	14	7	26	1332
16	Female	1401	239	10	12	27	1689
17	Male	820	145	4	5	21	995
17	Female	860	145	18	9	18	1050
TOTALS:							
	Male	4374	763	48	39	129	5353
	Female	5288	845	61	43	105	6342
		9662	1608	109	82	234	11695



**C.B.I.**  
**Missing**  
**Children's**  
**Unit**



# Time Last Seen Count 2009

Children are most frequently reported missing between the hours of 7 AM and 9 AM.

Time	Male	Female	Total
1 AM	0	9	9
2 AM	2	3	5
3 AM	2	3	5
4 AM	1	3	4
5 AM	2	2	4
6 AM	26	32	58
7 AM	41	47	88
8 AM	36	50	86
9 AM	11	11	22
10 AM	21	12	33
11 AM	19	11	30
Noon	27	33	60
1 PM	26	22	48
2 PM	24	26	50
3 PM	24	39	63
4 PM	33	46	79
5 PM	33	33	66
6 PM	33	40	73
7 PM	13	32	45
8 PM	28	37	65
9 PM	41	36	77
10 PM	22	43	65
11 PM	14	19	33
Midnight	9	8	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>1085</b>



**C.B.I.**  
**Missing**  
**Children's**  
**Unit**



# Circumstance of Recovery 2009

In most instances of a child being reported missing the child returned home voluntarily.

	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>Returned Voluntarily</b>	2,749	3,536	<b>6,285</b>
<b>Contact with Law Enforcement</b>	2,120	2,310	<b>4,430</b>
<b>Contacted by other than Law Enforcement</b>	86	124	<b>210</b>
<b>Deceased</b>	5	3	<b>8</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	56	67	<b>123</b>
<b>Emancipated</b>	16	42	<b>58</b>
<b>Record was test or had erroneous data</b>	393	449	<b>842</b>
<b>Total Recovered</b>	<b>5,425</b>	<b>6,531</b>	<b>11,956</b>